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The CIA in the Iran Affair

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MR. TOM BROKAW: New details emerged today about the place of the CIA in the Iran affair. What did it know and when?

CIA Director William Casey told a Congressional Committee two weeks ago that a New York businessman, Roy Farkmark, had raised the possibility that money was being diverted to the Contras.

Today, Farkmark spoke with NBC's James Polk about his dealings with the CIA.

~~JAMES POLK:~~ It was in September at a meeting in Paris that the broker for the Iran arms deal, Manucher Ghorbanifar, told his partner, Adnan Khashoggi, some of the money might have gone to the Contras.

Roy Farkmark was there as Khashoggi's associate. He said the two men were talking about how the arms price had been marked up.

ROY FARKMARK: Ghorbanifar then made the comment, "Maybe the funds have gone some other place. Maybe they're used for the Contras or something."

POLK: F~~u~~rmak met with CIA Director William Casey early in October to tell him about money missing the deal, not about the Contras.

Later in October at this New York restaurant, F~~u~~rmak said he told his story to two CIA officials. He repeated what Ghorbanifar said about the Contras.

F~~u~~RMARK: They took some notes and had no reaction at all.

POLK: One of the people meeting F~~u~~rmak was retired CIA agent, George Cave, the same man who'd accompanied former National Security Advisor Robert McFarlane on the secret trip to Iran.

F~~u~~RMARK: George Cave was in attendance.

POLK: The CIA won't say why it sent Cave to see F~~u~~rmak or how large a role Cave had in all the dealings.

The story from sources tonight is that the CIA did raise warning signals about money for the Contras as early as October when F~~u~~rmak first mentioned it, but Casey passed on the information to someone else in authority. No one will say who or how high and, in the end, nothing was done.

James Polk, NBC News, New York.